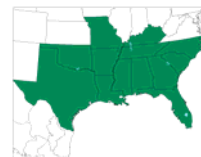


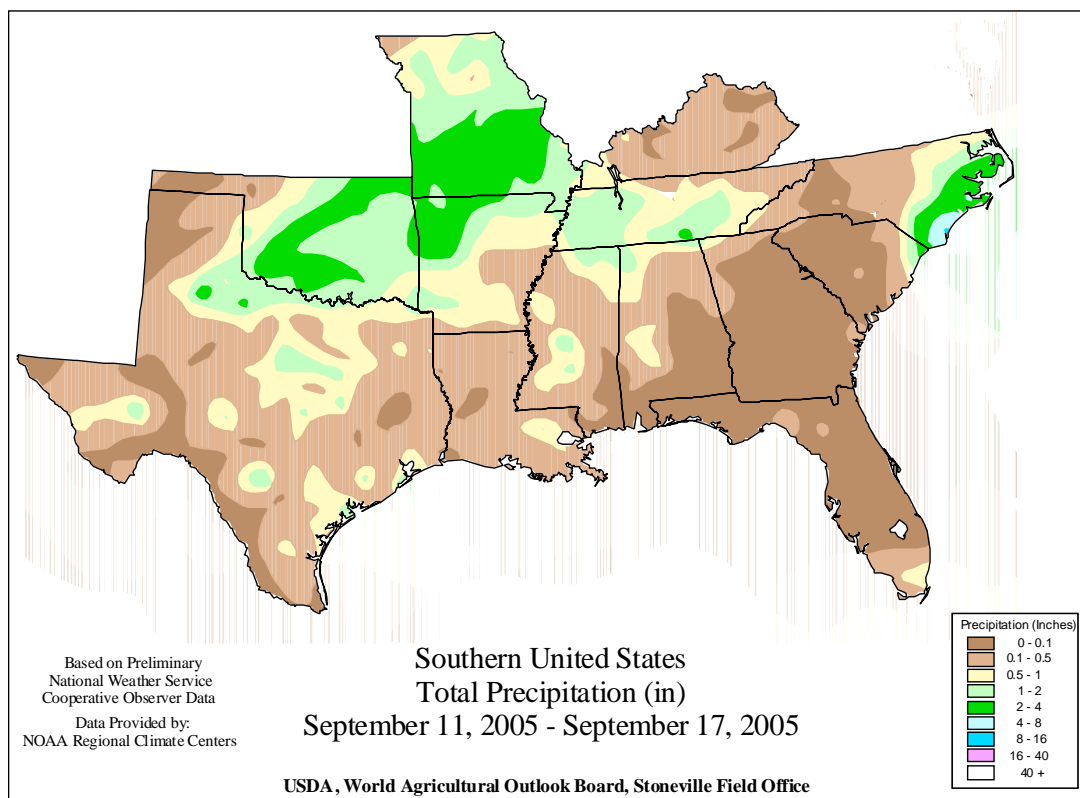


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

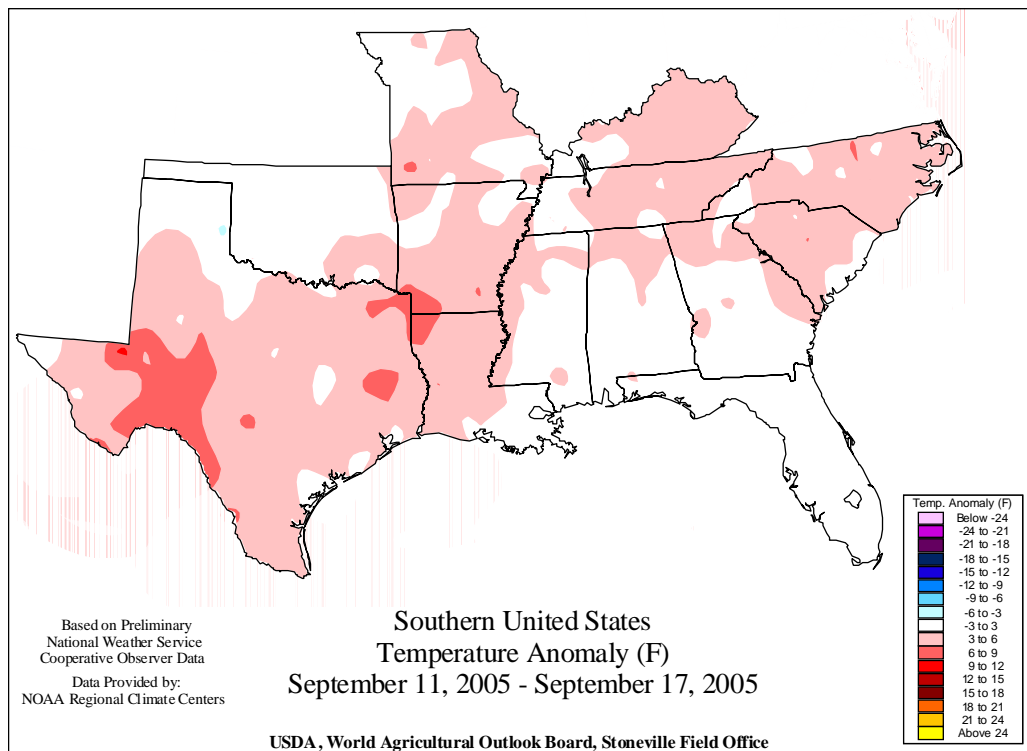
September 11 to 17, 2005



Weather Highlights

Showers stretched across parts of the southern region, while other areas remained dry. North Carolina ended up with the highest rain totals as the ever-so-slow Hurricane Ophelia remained nearly stationary over the week. Ophelia produced rains in excess of 8 to 16 inches for the outer banks of North Carolina, as it hugged the coastline for several days straight. Otherwise, widespread showers, from .50 to 4 inches, affected mostly the states of Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas. The remainder of the southern U.S. remained relatively dry. In Atlanta, minimal rain finally put an end to their 16 consecutive rainless days on record per NWS, the longest since the Fall of 2001.

Weekly temperatures averaged either normal, to above normal, across the southern U.S. Patchy areas had temperatures up to 9 degrees F above normal, but most weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees F above normal. Even daily minimums were exceptionally warm, such as in the Piedmont region. Greensboro, NC recorded a new high minimum temperature of 72 degrees F on Wednesday, September 14, beating the old record low of 69 degrees F. Atlanta recorded a high of 91 degrees F, on Thursday, September 15, which is 9 degrees F above normal for that date.



The Mississippi Delta was hot and dry until a late-week front brought change. Daily temperatures for most of the Delta remained 90 degrees F or more the majority of the week. A late-week front did allow a slight temperature drop to 89 degrees F, such as in Stoneville on September 17. Therefore, weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees F above normal. Scattered showers brought over an inch of rain for some areas and less than .25 inches for others. The dry weather promoted the efforts of cotton harvesting and tilling greatly.

(For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez at 662-686-3395)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*					
Week Ending					
September 18, September 11, September 18, 2000-2004					
		2005	2005	2004	Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Bolls Opening	56	43	56	64
	Harvested	11	9	9	12
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	62	65	66	---
Corn	Dented	96	89	84	91
	Mature	57	36	40	53
	Harvested	11	6	9	11
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	52	51	70	---
Rice	Harvested	43	33	57	52
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	63	61	73	---
Soybeans	Dropping Leaves	64	37	49	53
	Harvested	8	NA	8	6
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	53	54	64	---
*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					
"---" = Not Reported					

Cotton:

Bolls were open on 56 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 56 percent last year and 64 percent for the 5-year average. Eleven percent of the crop was harvested, 2 points ahead of last year and 1 point behind the 5-year average. Of the southern states, only Texas and Louisiana were ahead of their 5-year average harvest pace. Harvest began in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Missouri. Nationally, crop conditions declined 3 percentage points from the previous week to 62 percent of the crop rated good to excellent. Crop acres rated good to excellent declined 17 percent in Louisiana, 11 percent in South Carolina, 8 percent in Mississippi, and 7 percent in Georgia.

Corn:

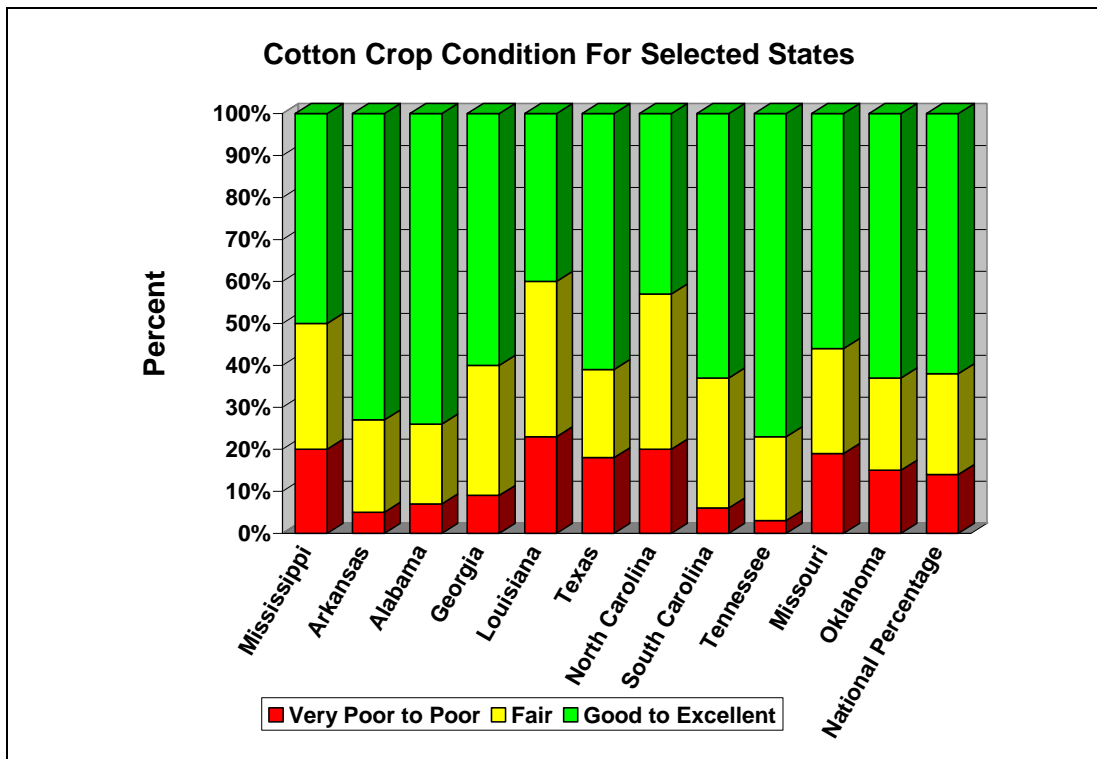
Eleven percent of the nation's crop had been harvested, 2 points ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average. Harvest continued in all of the southern states, was completed in Louisiana, and was near completion in Mississippi with 87 percent harvested. Kentucky trailed all southern states, with 31 percent of their crop harvested, 7 points behind their 5-year average. Nationally, crop acreage rated good to excellent improved 1 point to 52 percent. Arkansas, with 48 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, reduced their crop rating by 8 points from the previous week.

Rice:

Nationally, 43 percent of the acreage had been harvested, 14 points behind last year and 9 points behind the 5-year average pace. Sixty-three percent of the nation's crop was rated good to excellent, a 2 point improvement from the previous week. Harvest continued in all of the southern states and neared completion in Texas with 96 percent of their crop harvested, equaling their 5-year average harvest pace.

Soybeans:

Nationally, 8 percent of the soybean acres had been harvested, equal to last year's pace and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average pace. Harvest progress was most advanced in Mississippi (67 percent) and Louisiana (62 percent). The U.S. soybean crop, with 53 percent of the acres rated good to excellent, declined 1 point from the previous week. Conditions of the Georgia and South Carolina crop deteriorated from the previous week 15 and 20 points, to 56 and 49 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, respectively.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, 62 percent of the cotton acreage was rated good to excellent, a 3 point decline from the previous week. Mississippi, at 50 percent good to excellent, reduced their good to excellent crop acreage estimate by 8 percentage points from the previous week. Louisiana's cotton acres, at 40 percent rated good to excellent, declined 17 points from the previous week, the lowest of any southern state. Tennessee (77 percent good to excellent) and Alabama (74 percent good to excellent) reported the best crop condition ratings of the southern states.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)